The Future: Grants.gov

Presentation to the EERE Stakeholders

Agenda

- Overview of Grants.gov
- The Grants.gov Process
- Questions/Discussion



Overview of Grants.gov

Background

- eGovernment named one of five government-wide initiatives included in the President's Management Agenda.
- 24 high priority 'Quicksilver' programs named by OMB focus on delivering significant productivity and performance gains across Federal government.
- Public Law 106-107 established requirements for:
 - A single portal to execute all Federal financial assistance.
 - Standardizing, streamlining and simplifying Federal grant management activities.
- Grants.gov Program identified as a Quicksilver initiative, with HHS named as 'managing partner'.
 - 26 participating Federal grant-making agencies.
 - 900 grant programs.
 - \$350B in grants awarded annually.



Vision

The Grants.gov Program will:

- Produce a simple, unified "storefront" for all customers of Federal grants to electronically find opportunities, apply, and manage grants.
- Facilitate the quality, coordination, effectiveness, and efficiency of operations for grant makers and grant recipients.

Goals

- Eliminate the burden of redundant or disparate electronic and paper-based data collection requirements.
- Define and implement simplified standard processes and standard data definitions for Federal grant customer interactions.
- Protect the confidentiality, availability, and integrity of data.
- Standardize the collection of financial and progress report data in support of audit and performance measurement activities.

Grantor Agency Benefits

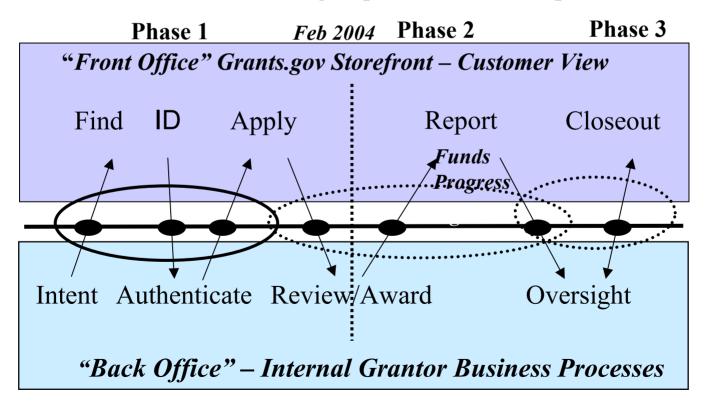
- Unifies the "face" of Agency grant opportunity announcements.
- Continues with existing business processes while being compatible with the Grants.gov services.
- Avoids cost of having to build separate agency-specific grant application systems.
- Opportunities to use more off-the-shelf grant management software as legacy systems get replaced.
- Opportunities for consolidation and use of best practices within agencies.

Grant Community Benefits

- Single source to find Federal government-wide competitive grant opportunities.
 - Helps the grant community learn more about available opportunities in a standardized manner thus saving time and money.
- Secure and reliable source for applying for Federal grants, simplifying the grant application process and reducing paperwork.
 - Avoiding the need to learn multiple agency or program-specific application processes/systems.

Grants.gov Program

• The Grants.gov Program is focused primarily on the Grant Community "front office" view and is being implemented in two phases.



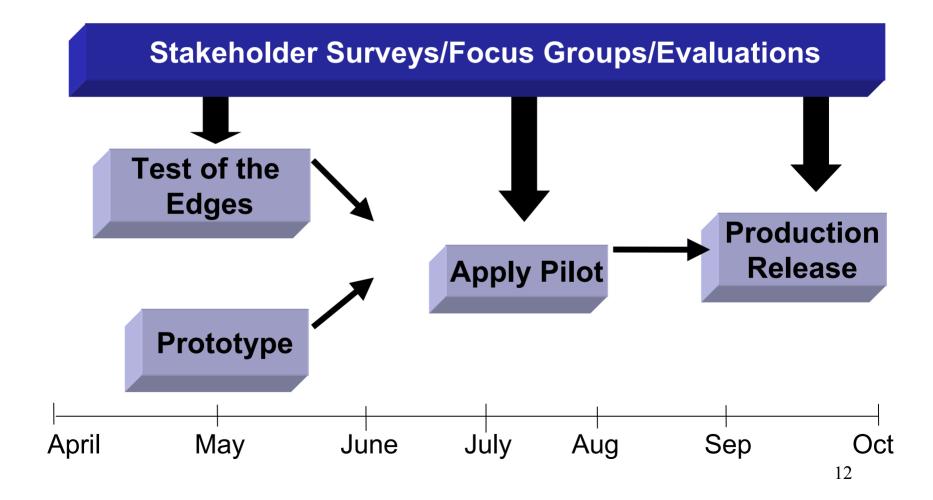
Grants.gov (Find)

- Uses FedBizOpps model to store announcement synopses.
- Single location for all competitive discretionary financial assistance opportunities.
 - Grants.gov FIND or www.FedGrants.gov
 - Notices (synopses) of discretionary grants opportunities announcements and modifications required to be posted to Grants.gov Find (FedGrants) starting October 1, 2003.
 - Anticipate posting notices of mandatory opportunities in CY 2004.
- Requires Government-wide standard synopses and funding opportunity announcement format.
 - OMB Policy published in Federal Register October 8, 2003.
 - DOE implemented DOE-wide Funding Opportunity Announcement template November 23, 2003.

Grants.gov (Apply)

- Single location to download, complete and submit applications for grant opportunities.
 - www.Grants.gov.
 - Available 24/7.
- The web site became operational October 31, 2003.
- Only approved standard core (SF 424, A,B,C &D) and core plus forms authorized for use.
 - Forms easily sent from one office to another for signatures.
 - Additional core plus forms being developed.
- The Apply application functions includes:
 - Integration with e-Authentication credential provider.
 - Central Contractor Registry validation & role assignment.
 - System-to-system integration with Agencies.
- Apply and Find functions are now linked and integrated.

Grants.gov 2003 Road Map



Grants.gov Pilot Tests

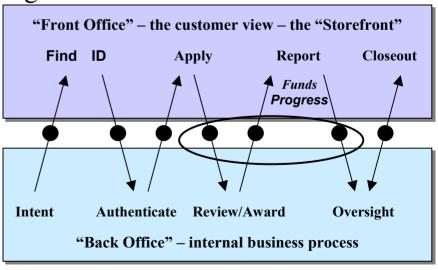
- DOE participated in two test.
 - "Test of the Edges Pilot" April 30th June 5th 2003.
 - "Apply Pilot" June 30th August 15th 2003.
- Three EERE Programs were tested.
 - Renewable Energy Research and Development.
 - State Energy Program Special Projects.
 - State Energy Program.
- Two EERE partners participated in tests.
 - Teledyne Energy Systems, Inc.
 - Nebraska State Energy Office.
- The pilots tested data standards (SF424 Cover, A,B,C, D), downloading application packages, and submitting and receiving completed applications.

Lessons Learned

- CCR registration process.
 - Time consuming and required a lot of information.
 - Difficult finding specific codes for mandatory fields.
 - Difficult determining North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code.
- Stakeholders need to decide how their activity will request and manage DUNS numbers.
- Minor problems encountered with:
 - Downloading and submitting application packages.
 - Installation of PureEdge Viewer software.
- Key lessons learned
 - Use the CCR Worksheet and register early.
 - Involve your IT personnel early-- restricted system access.
 - Submit application packages as early as possible.

Phase II, February 2004 - February 2006

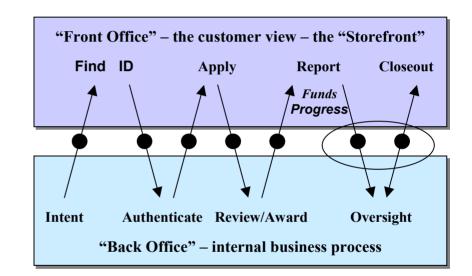
- Provide distinct, incremental segments of functionality.
- Milestones include:
 - Integrate the find and apply mechanisms.
 - Deploy enhancements to find and apply mechanisms.
 - Define data standards for reporting.
 - Deploy reporting functionality.
 - Define data standards for mandatory grant applications.
 - Deploy mandatory grant application functionality.
 - Define version 2 of core data standards.



Phase III, February 2006 – September 2007

Notional

- Grants.gov is in the early, planning stages for Phase III.
 - Distinct, incremental segments of functionality.
 - Benefits to applicants, grantees and agencies.
- Notional Phase III milestones include.
 - Further enhancements to find & apply mechanisms.
 - Enhance reporting mechanism & mandatory grants application mechanisms.
 - Identify version 3 of core data standards.



- Develop closeout data standards.
- Deploy closeout functionality.
- Develop award data standards.
- Deploy award functionality.

Path Forward

October 1, 2003 – October 31, 2004

- DOE issued policy implementing OMB policy (Oct 28, 03).
 - Requires applicant's DUNS number be included in application.
 (Oct 1, 2003).
 - Requires opportunity notices of discretionary grants be posted to Grants.gov FIND (FedGrants.gov) (Oct 1, 2003).
 - Requires use of standard DOE- wide Funding Opportunity Announcement template (Nov 23, 2003).
- Grants.gov web site went operational (Oct 31, 03).
- EERE posted the <u>GeoPowering The West</u> (CFDA Number 81.117) funding opportunity to Grants.gov (Dec 1, 03).
- EERE conducted initial training sessions (Nov Dec 03).
- Develop implementation plan (interface and training) with states for transitioning to Grants.gov (Dec 03).

Path Forward

October 1, 2003 – October 31, 2004 (Continued)

- Grants.gov to run pilot test on Research & Related Cross Agency Data Set (Jan 04 possibly later).
- Grants.gov to move forward on Phase II (Feb 04).
- DOE to run integration test between DOE IIPS and Grants.gov (Jan 04).
- DOE to develop program specific data standards (FY04).
- EERE to conduct follow-up training sessions (Early summer and fall 04).
- DOE to deploy new Standard Accounting and Reporting System (STARS) (Oct 04).
- Transition the Weatherization Assistance and State Energy Programs to Grants.gov (Oct 04).
- Address drawdown capability for states.

DOE Formula Grant Processing Current & Anticipated Future for WinSAGA

Current Processing with WinSAGA



Initiates Grant

- •New grant or amendment created in WinSAGA
- •Includes basic grant data and anticipated funding information

Enters Application

- •Copy & update from last year
- •SF424
- Budget
- •Budget Explanation
- •Master File
- Annual File
- Assurances and Certifications
- Checklist

Review **Application**

•RO reviews application in WinSAGA

Signs SF424

- •Review application
- •SF424 signed electronically
- •Transfer access to RO

Approves Application?

If Yes

- •Move on to PR If No
- •RO may revise and move on to PR or transfer access to State

NO

Revises Application

 Overlays earlier versions

Signs PR

•Commitment/ reservation data to

Yes

DISCAS

Signs Revised

Application

•Re-sign SF424 if

Transfer access to

any fields have

changed

RO

Signs NFAA

- •Obligation data to PADS and DISCAS
- •Funds available for draw down

Accepts Grant

- •Grant accepted
- •Data ready for reporting.in WinSAGA



State Processing/

RO

Processing/

Anticipated Future Process with Grants.gov, IIPS, and WinSAGA



RO

Processing/

Announce Grant Opportunity

- •Opportunity
 Notice posted
 thru IIPS to
 FedGrants
- •Grant application package created & posted on Grants.gov

Review Application Package

- •Application package transmitted from Grants.gov to IIPS
- •RO retrieves data from IIPS (or data could go to WinSAGA)
- •RO reviews application

Approve Application? If Yes

- •Award the grant If No
- •RO communicates issues to state for updating thru IIPS

Update WinSAGA

- •Data loaded into
- WinSAGA.
 Either load data

Yes

from IIPS, or RO manually enters data.

Sign NFAA and make funds available

- •Obligation data to PADS and DISCAS
- •Funds available for draw down

enters data.

Retrieve/complete Application Package

- •Download package & instructions
- •Complete Core foms
- •Complete attachments for non-core data

Submit Package to Grants.gov

- •Reviews package
- •Sign application using E-
- •Submit application to Grants.gov

Revise Application

- •Update application package
- •Communicate required changes via IIPS
- •Resubmit via IIPS

Signs Revised Application

- •Upload to IIPS
- •Re-sign application using E-

Accepts Grant Data available at States for reporting

•Data replicates to the State, which allows reporting in WinSAGA.



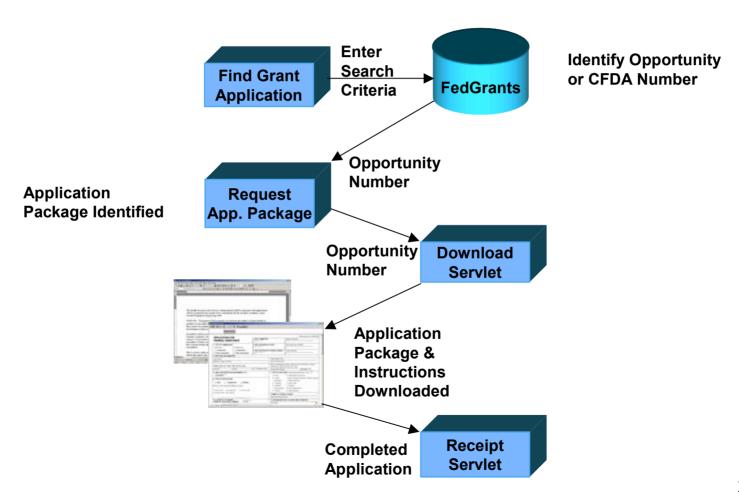




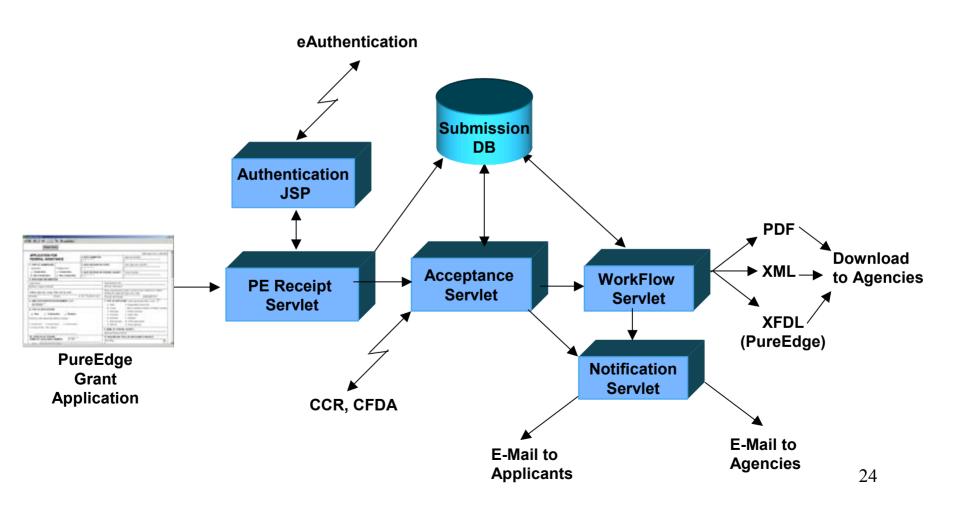


The Grants.gov Process

Basic User Processing Flow



Basic Submission Processing Flow



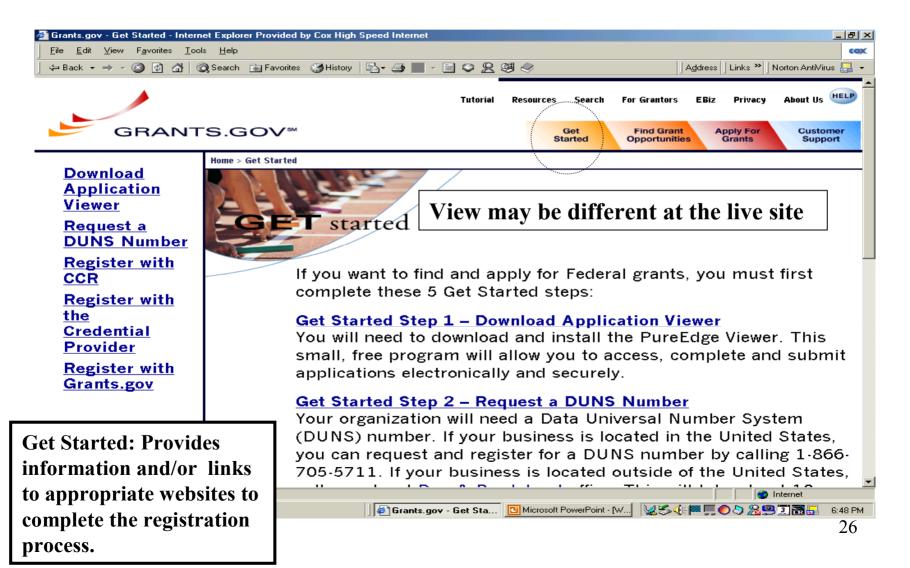


Grants.gov Home Page

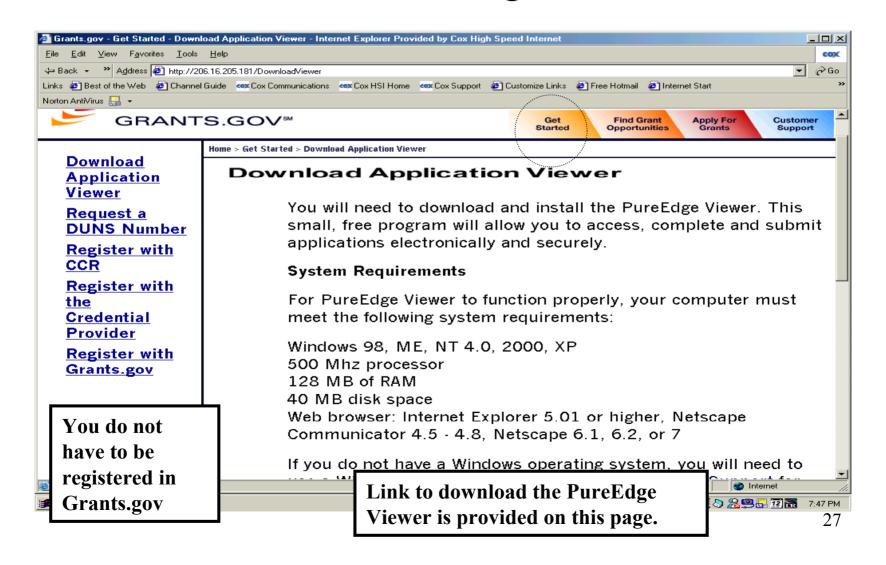




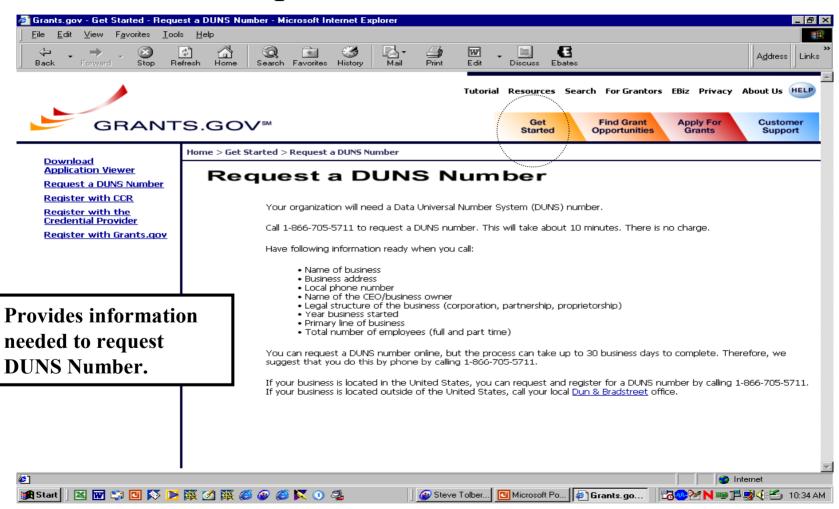
Get Started



Download PurEdge Viewer



Request a Duns Number



Register with CCR

- Need DUNS number to register.
- One-time business registration, with annual updates.
- Applicants must be registered in CCR prior to submitting an application through Grants.gov.
- Processing and activation:
 - 48 or more hours (5 days) for new registration.
 - 24 hours for updating registration.
 - Receive welcome letter or electronic mail notice and a Trading Partner Identification Number (TPIN).
- CCR eBusiness POC responsible for designating agency's Authorized Organization Representative (AOR).
 - Will need Marketing Partner Identification Number (MPIN)

Register with the CCR

(Continued)

- Use the CCR handbook and template (http://www.ccr.gov/handbook.cfm).
- Recommended NAICS codes for States:
 - 624229 Energy Assistance Programs (WAP).
 - 926110 Energy Program Administration.
- Recommended SIC codes for States:
 - 8322 Energy Assistance Programs (WAP).
 - 9611 Energy Program Administration.
- NAICS/SIC information: http://www.census.gov/cgibin/epcd/srchnaics02defs
- CCR Assistance Center available at 1-888-227-2423.

Register with a Credential Provider (1)

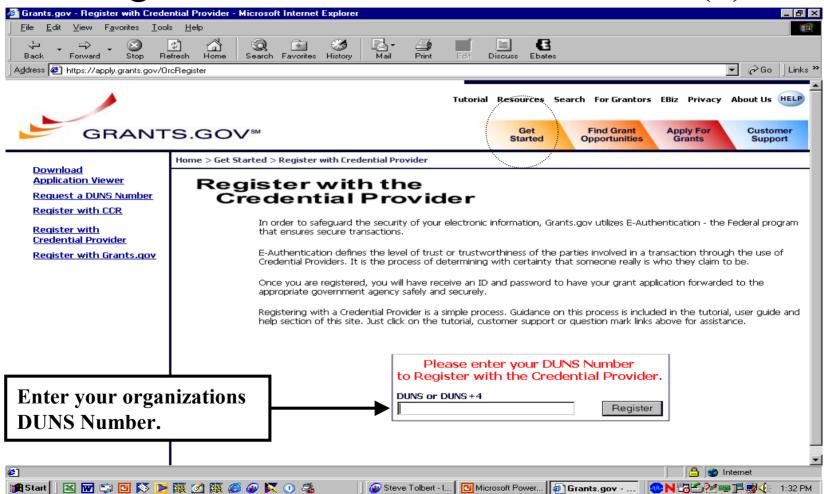
- Register through Grants.gov Get Started Tab.
- Operational Research Consultants, Inc. (ORC) selected as credential provider.
 - Only accepted credential provider.
 - ORC helpdesk: 1-800-386-6820 between 7:30 am and 6:00 pm EST or eauthhelp@orc.com.
- Interfaces with the CCR.
- Integration via the E-Authentication Gateway after October Launch.
 - Accept other credential providers.

Register with a Credential Provider (2)

(Continued)

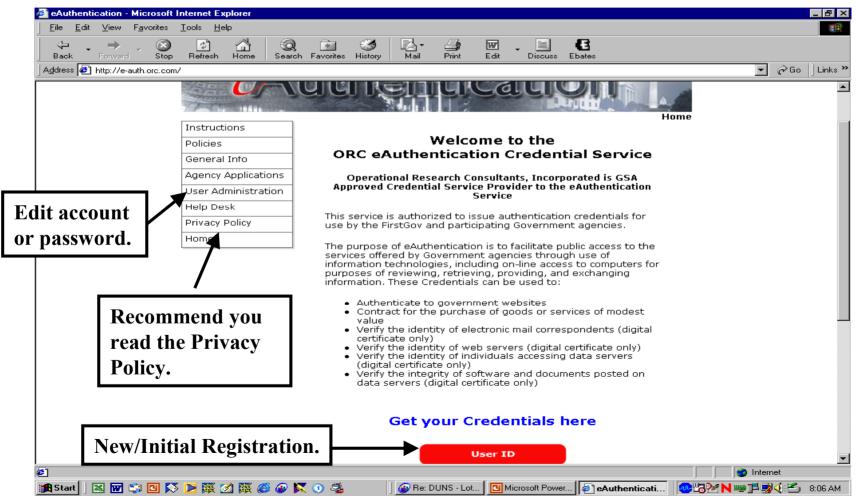
- Individual Registration.
- Information required to register.
 - Organization's DUNS Number;
 - First and Last Name;
 - Date of Birth;
 - Business Address and Phone Number;
 - Home Address and Phone Number; and
 - Primary Email Address.

Register with a Credential Provider (3)

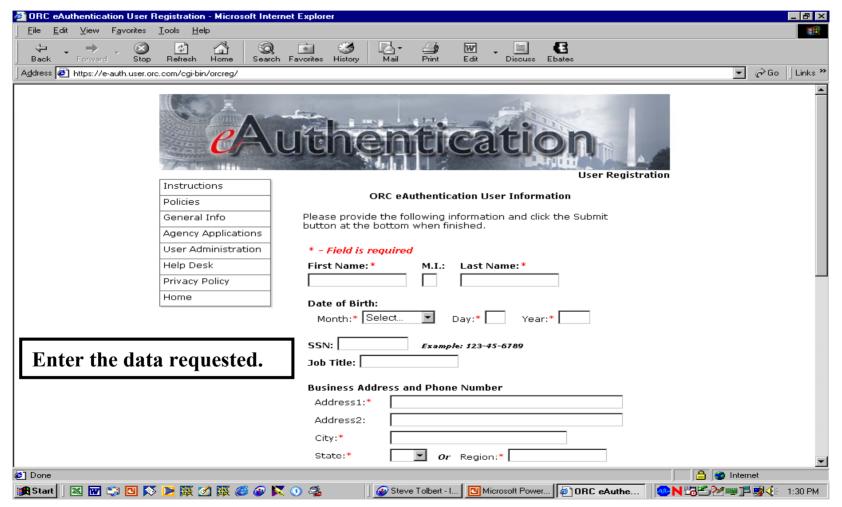




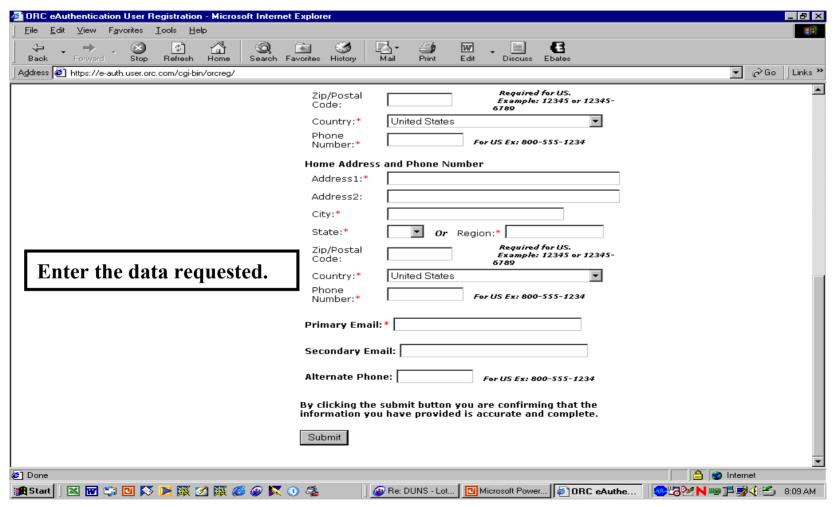
Register with a Credential Provider (4)



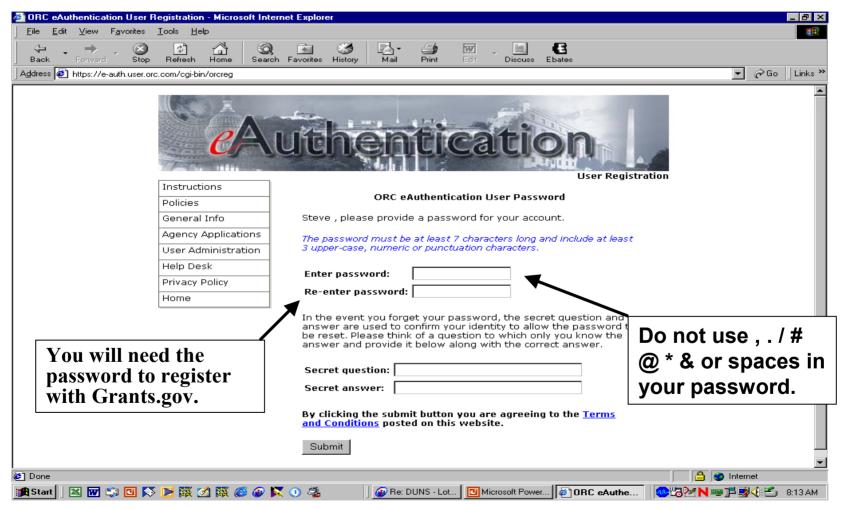
Register with a Credential Provider (5)



Register with a Credential Provider (6)



Register with a Credential Provider (7)



Register with a Credential Provider (8)

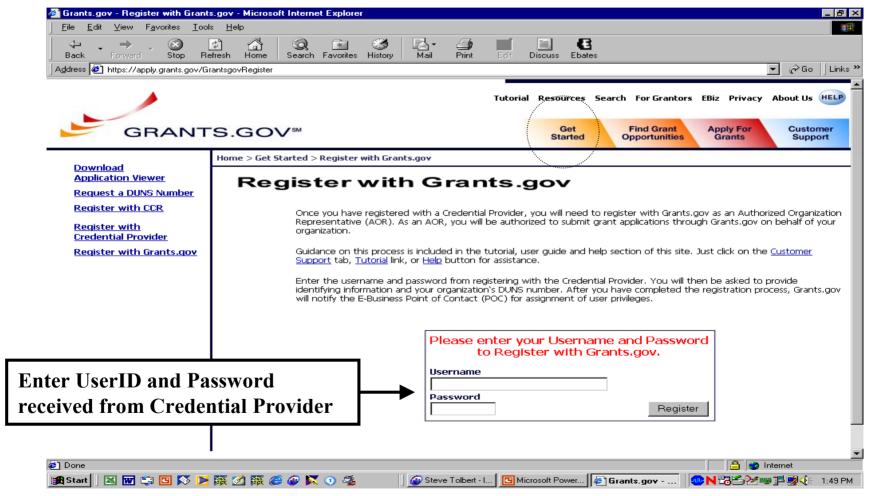
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- Receive ORC eAuthentication Account Confirmation with:
 - UserID. (Assigned by ORC)
 - Name.
 - Date of Birth.
 - Business Address and Phone.
 - Home Address and Phone.
 - Primary Email.
- UserID and Password are needed to register in Grants.gov.

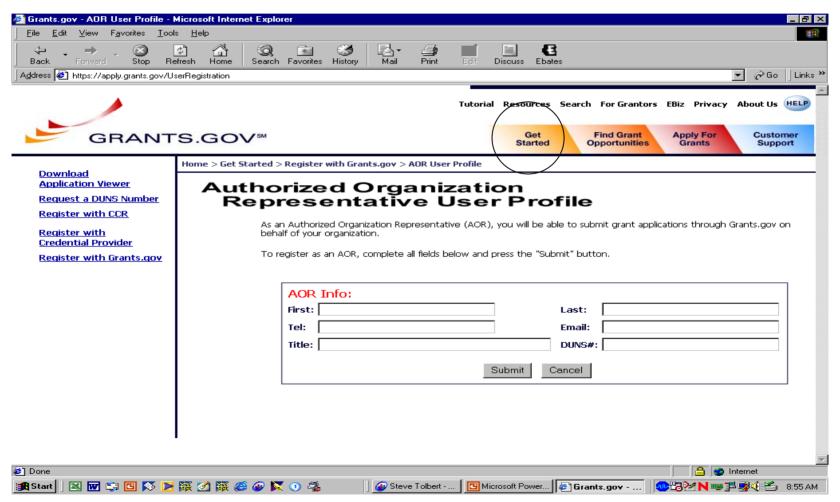
Register with Grants.gov (1)

- Once you have registered with a Credential Provider and been authenticated, you can register to be a Grants.gov Authorized Organization Representative (AOR).
- Grants.gov Interfaces with the CCR and Credential Provider.
 - Must use the UserID and password that was used to register with the Credential Provider.
 - Provides identifying information and DUNS Number.
 - Grants.gov notifies the CCR E-Business POC for assignment of user privileges.
- As an AOR, you will be authorized to submit grant applications through Grants.gov on behalf of your organization.

Register with Grants.gov (2)



Register with Grants.gov (3)

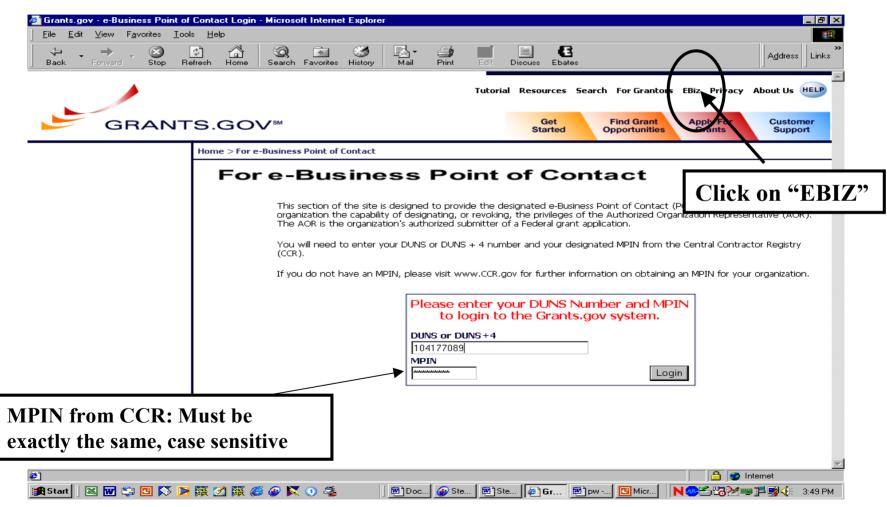


CCR eBusiness POC Assign AOR Authorities in Grants.gov

- CCR eBusiness POC can not access Grant.gov eBiz until after an AOR has registered under the organization's DUNS Number.
- The CCR eBusiness POC will:
 - Receive an email from Grants.gov after the AOR(s) registers.
 - Login to Grant.gov "Ebiz" using the organizations DUNS Number and Marketing Partner Identification Number (MPIN) from the CCR.
 - Assign authorities authorizing the AOR the authority to submit applications for his organization.

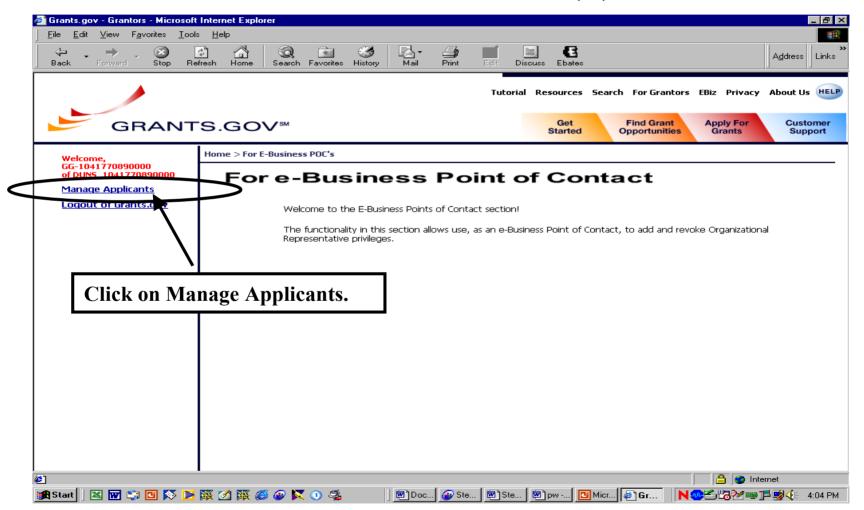


CCR E-Biz POC (1)

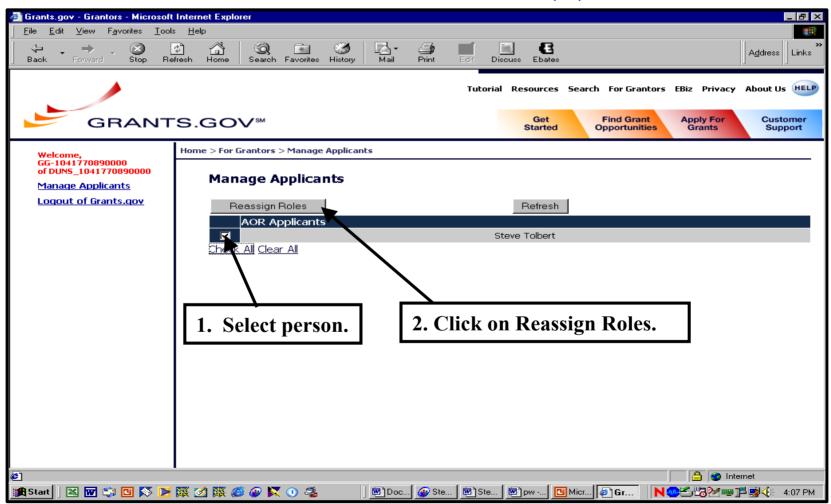




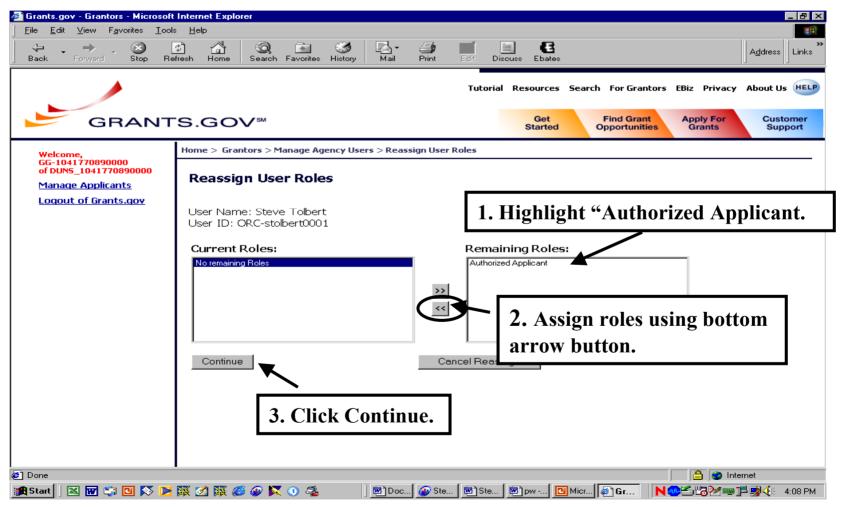
CCR E-Biz POC (2)



CCR E-Biz POC (3)

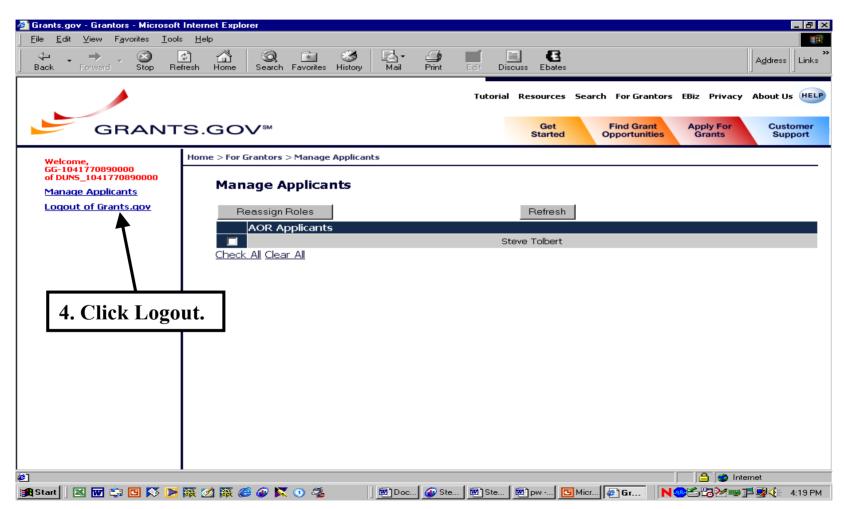


CCR E-Biz POC (4)



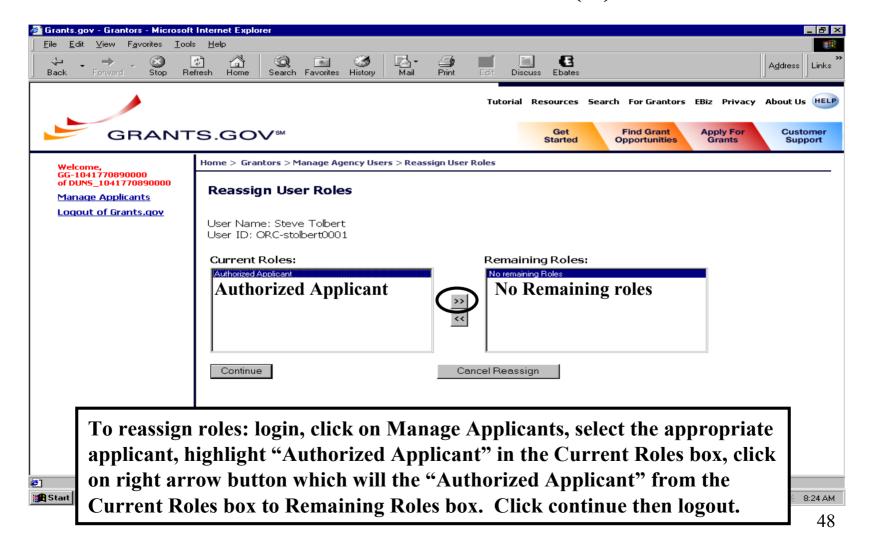


CCR E-Biz POC (5)





CCR E-Biz POC (6)



Register with the DOE Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS)

- Not a step in the Grants.gov registration process but required to do business with DOE.
- Why register with DOE IIPS?
 - IIPS is used for communication between DOE Procurement Offices and the applicants and awardees.
 - IIPS is used for electronic notification of amendments to Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA) (solicitations).
- Full FOAs is also posted on DOE IIPS.
- Register with DOE IIPS at: http://e-center.doe.gov/ and click on "Register".
- Ensure that the AOR registering in Grants.gov is the person registering in IIPS.

Verify System Requirements

- PureEdge Viewer system requirements:
 - Windows 98, ME, XP, NT 4.0, 2000*.
 - Pentium 500 Mhz processor.
 - 128 MB of RAM.
 - 40 MB disk space.
 - Web browser: Internet Explorer 5.01 or higher, Netscape
 Communicator 4.5-4.8, or Netscape 6.1, 6.2 or 7.
 - *If you do not have a Windows operating system, you will need to use a Windows Emulation program.
 - Available through www.grants.gov under the "Get Started Tab".
 - No cost to you.

Verify System Requirements

(Continued)

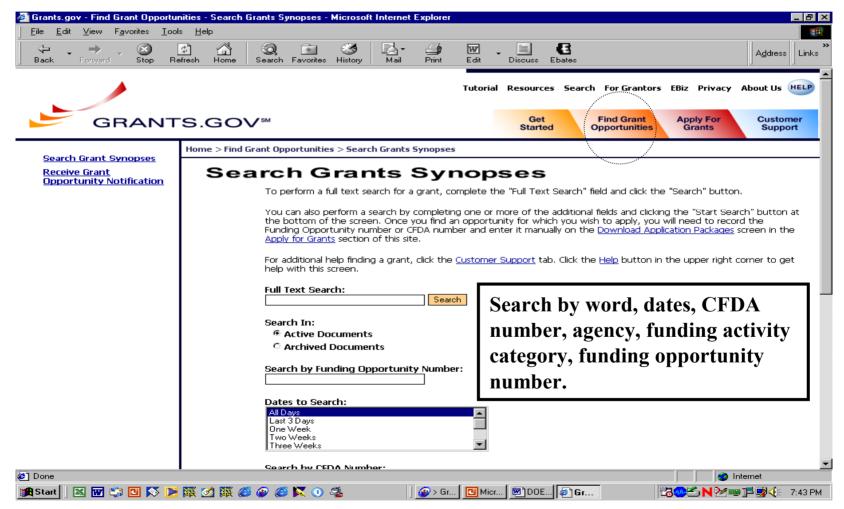
- DOE Industry Interactive Procurement System (DOE-IIPS) system requirements:
 - Internet Explorer 6.1 or higher or Netscape 7.0.
 - Available for download at http://e-center.doe.gov.
- Involve your information personnel early.



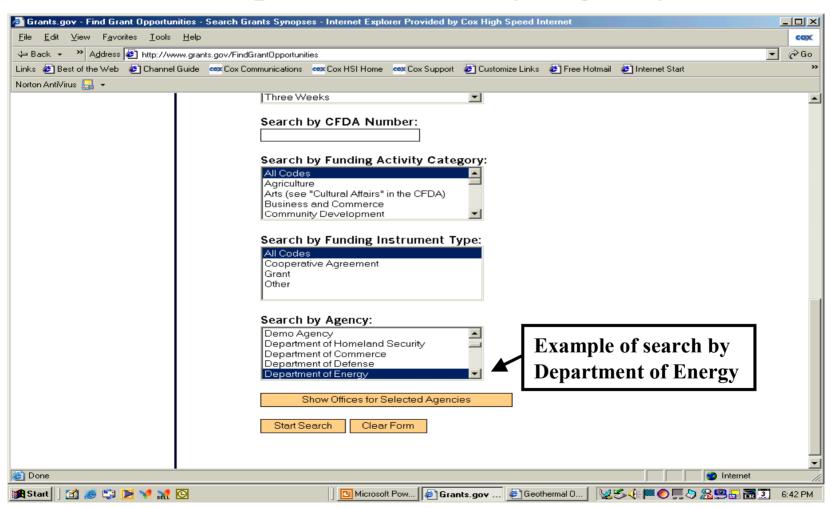
Find Grant Opportunities



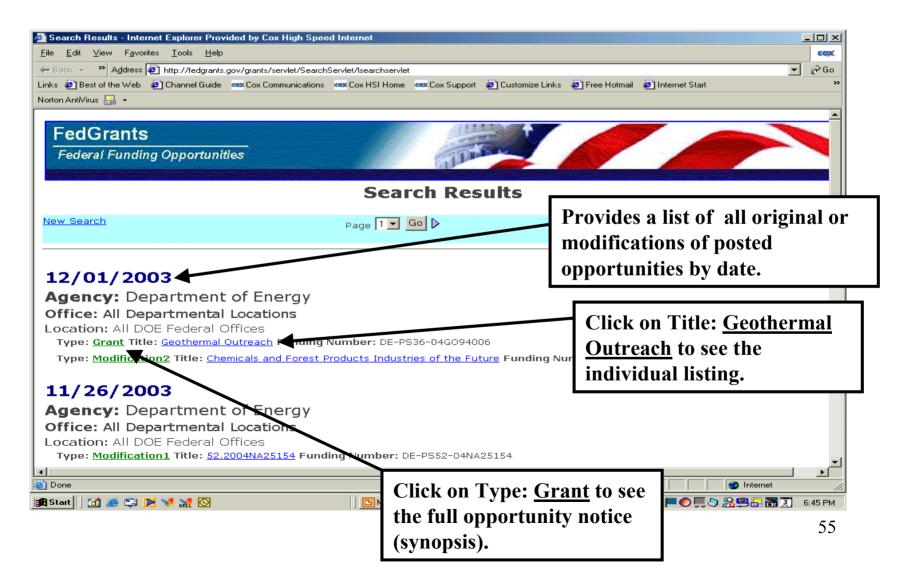
Search for Opportunities (Synopses)



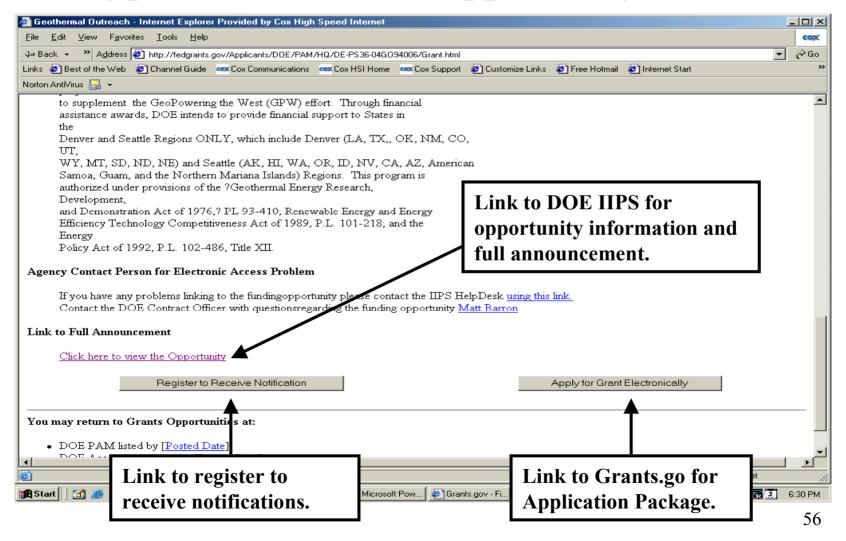
Example of Search by Agency



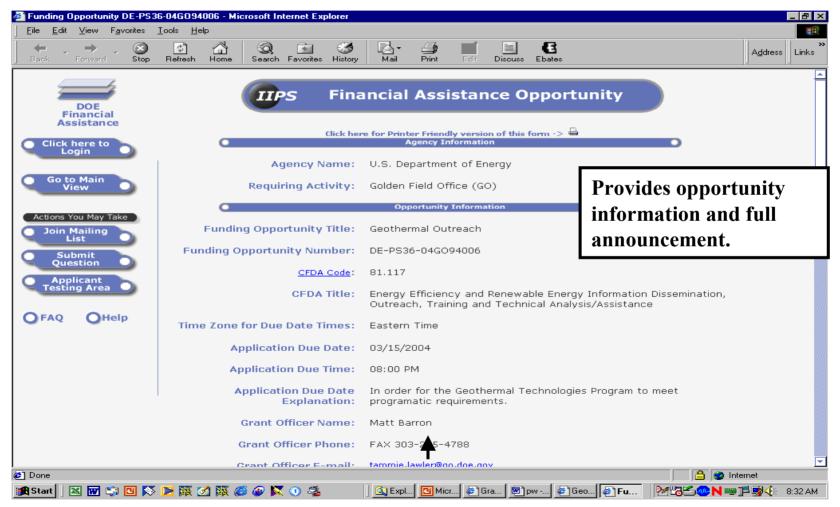
Search Results for DOE



Type: Grants -- Full Opportunity Notice



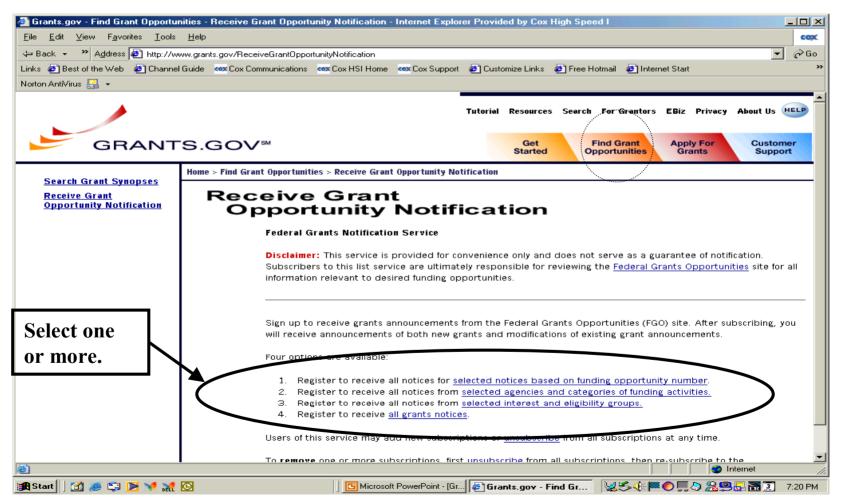
Link to DOE IIPS Information



Title: Geothermal Outreach -- Individual Listing

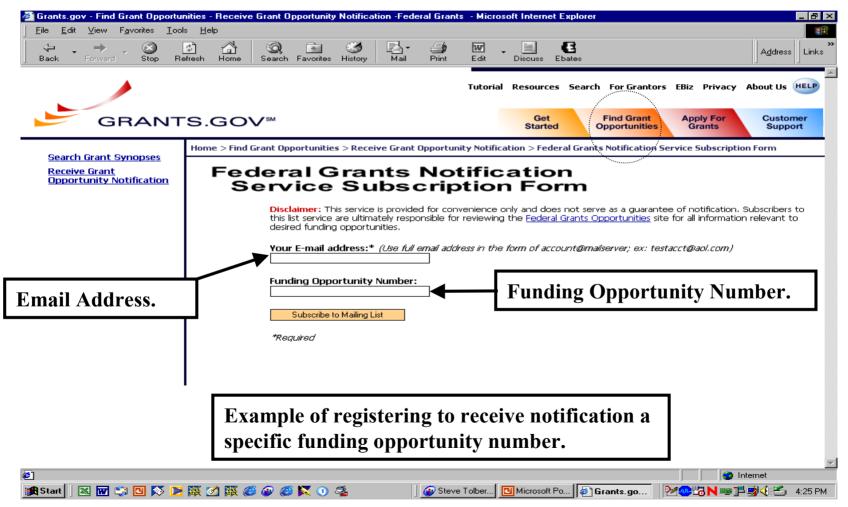


Receive Grant Opportunity Notifications





Register for Opportunity Notices

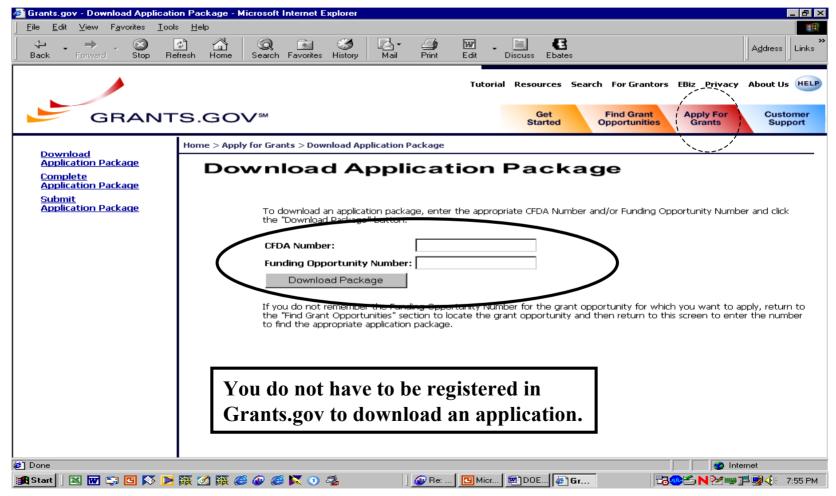




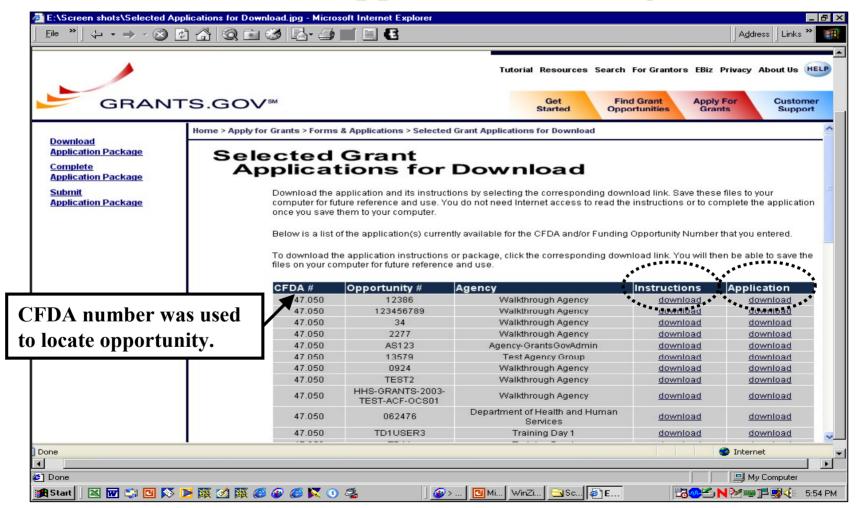
Apply For Grants



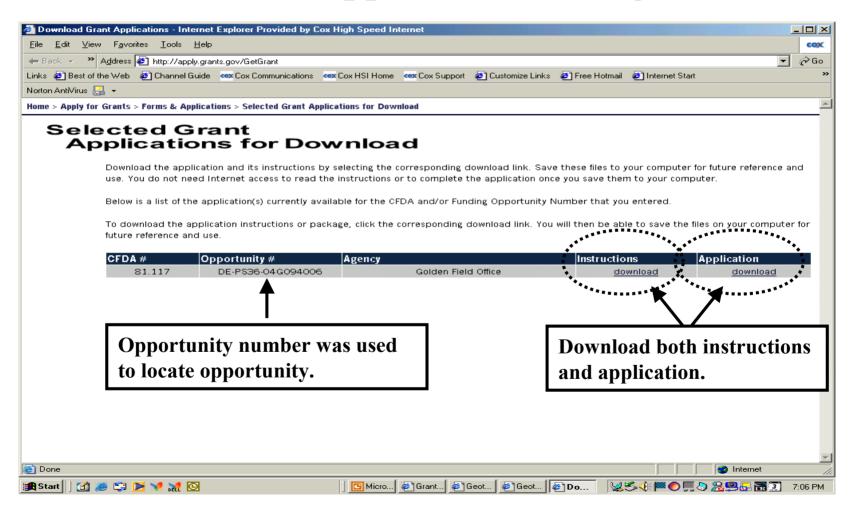
Download Application Package (1)



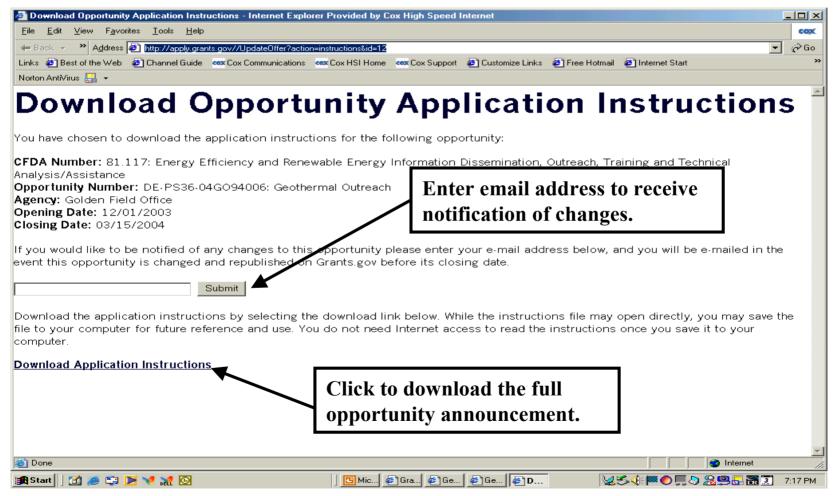
Download Application Package (2)



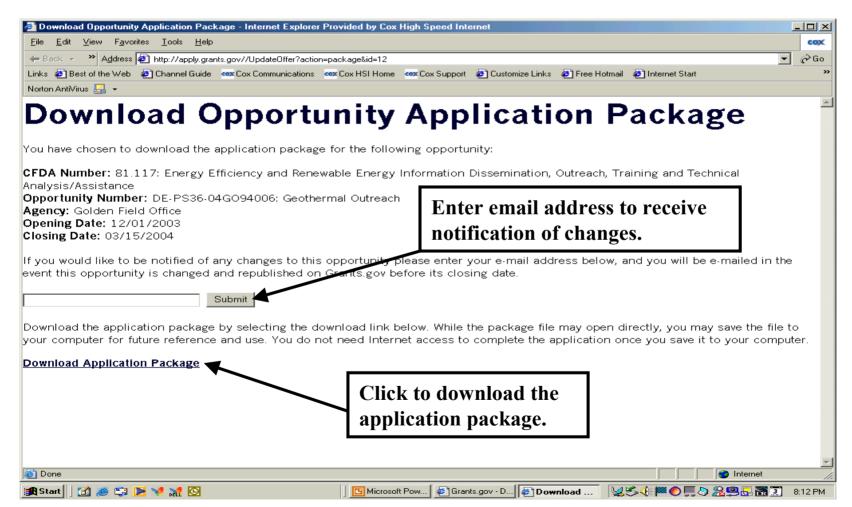
Download Application Package (3)



Application Instructions

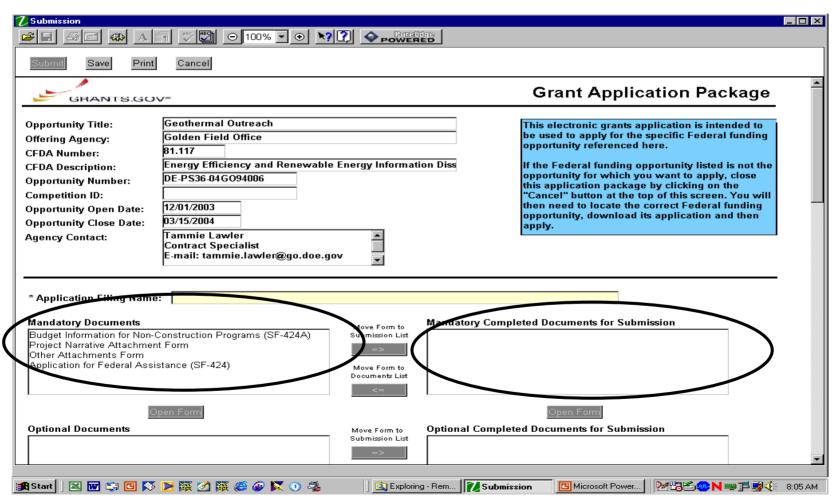


Application Package



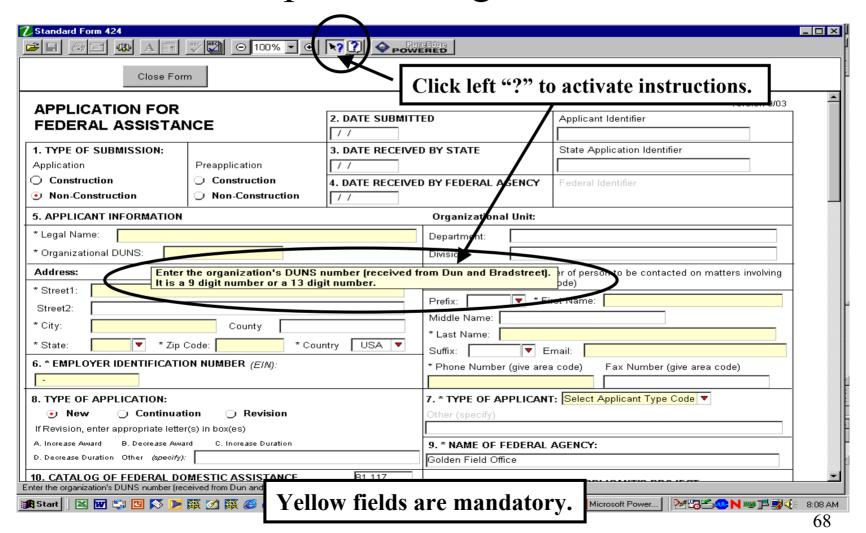


Complete the Application Package



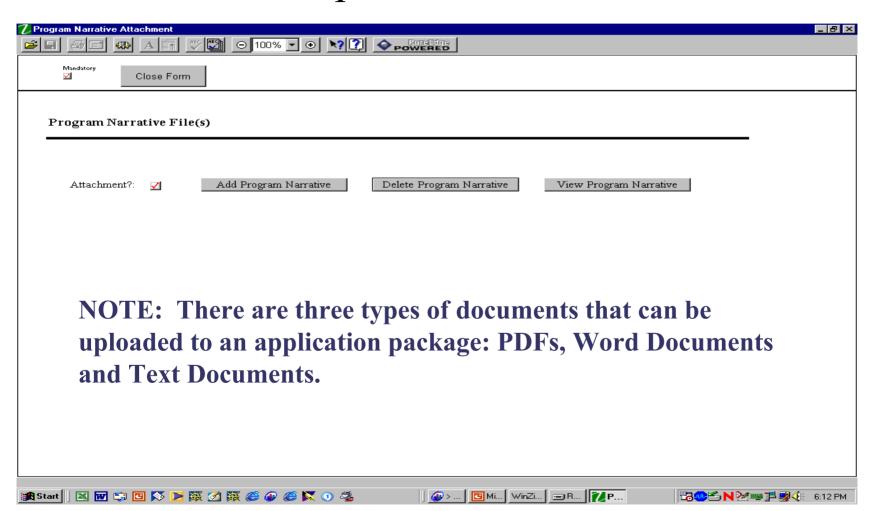


Sample Grants.gov SF424

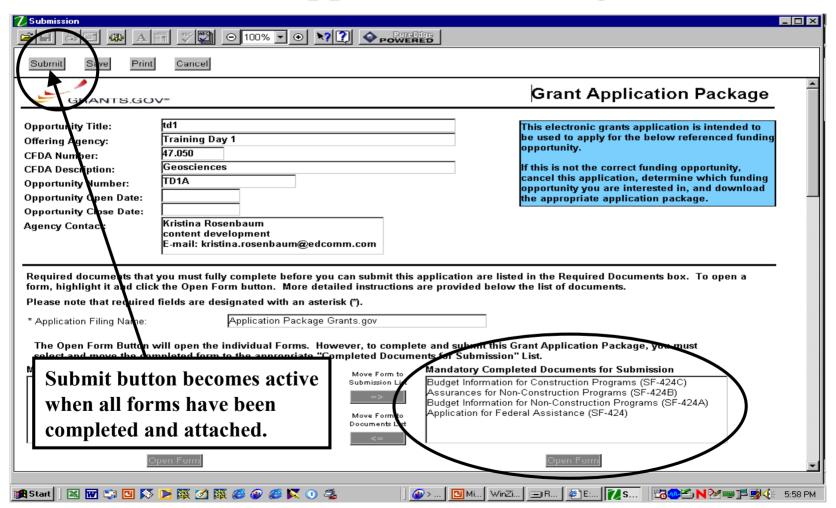




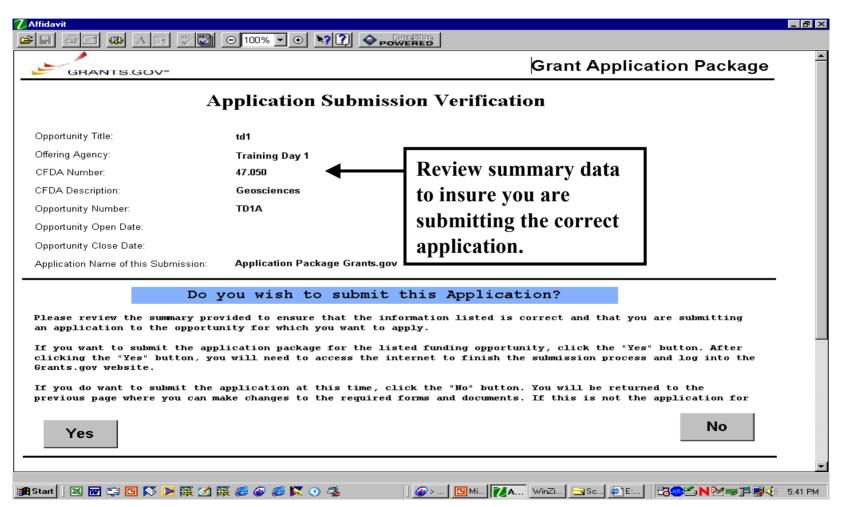
Sample Attachments



Submit Application Package (1)



Submit Application Package (2)



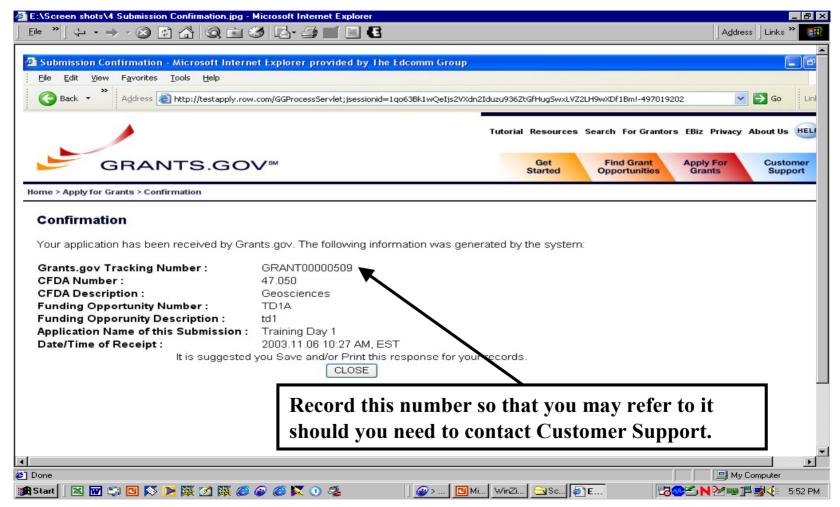


Submit Application Package (3)





Submit Application Package (4)



Activities After Submission

- DOE will be notified and will retrieve the application and assign a DOE tracking number.
- DOE will download applications into DOE IIPS.
- DOE will use DOE IIPS to:
 - Notify applicants of amendments to Funding Opportunity Announcements (solicitations).
 - Review applications or conduct merit reviews.
 - Communicate between the DOE Contracting Office, applicant and the Grantee.
 - Respond to questions submitted by the potential applicants.
 - Provide awardee's Notice of Financial Assistance Award via the Award Notification feature in IIPS.

Applicant Preparation for Grants.gov

- Visit the Grants.gov web site.
 - Read the "Get Started Tab" material.
 - Read the Tutorial and User Guide.
- Get a DUNS number.
- Register with the CCR.
- Acquire high speed internet access.
- Verify hardware and software requirements and system permissions.
- Download/update the PureEdge 6.0 Viewer.
- Register with Credential Provider (eAuthentication).
- Register with Grants.gov as a Authorized Organization Representative.
- Register with DOE IIPS.

Applicant Preparation for Grants.gov

(Continued)

- CCR eBusiness POC will need to assign AOR authority in Grants.gov.
- Utilize FedGrants or Grants.gov Find to find grant opportunities (discretionary grants).
 - FedGrants, Receive Grant Opportunity Notification Service.
- State Offices should work with Program Managers and Regional Offices on reviewing grant requirements and transitioning to Grants.gov.
- States should contact the State Treasury Office on potential changes in receiving grant funds.
- Do not get upset with the system because it will change some.

Question: How long will it take to register with Grants.gov?

- You can get a DUNS Number in about 10 minutes.
- You may register with the CCR immediately after you receive the DUNS Number.
- You should wait up to 6 business days after you complete your CCR registration before you register with the credential provider.
- You may register with the Grant.gov immediately after you register with the credential provider.
- The CCR eBusiness POC can not enter Grants.gov eBiz until after an AOR registers against the organizations DUNS Number.

(Continued)

Question: Approximately when will formula (mandatory) and discretionary grant funding opportunity notices (synopses) be posted to grants.gov?

- As of October 1 2003, discretionary grant and cooperative agreement funding opportunity notices are required to be posted to FedGrants.gov using the standard data elements.
- The OMB policy has not been published, however, we anticipate mandatory funding opportunity notices being posted in January 2004.
- A Federal Register Notice is still required. DOE is in the process of amending 10 CFR 600.8, but can not publish the rule until OMB has issued its final policy on Grants.gov FIND.
- DOE plans to require program offices to continue publishing solicitation notices in the *Federal Register* through December 31, 2003.
- The synopses are posted to FedGrants.gov using IIPS.

(Continued)

Question: Approximately when will mandatory and discretionary grant FOAs (solicitations) be posted to Grants.gov?

- Other Federal agencies will begin posting mandatory and discretionary grant Funding Opportunity Announcements to Grants.gov beginning October 31, 2003.
- The <u>GeoPowering The West</u> requirement is the only FOA scheduled to be posted by EERE in FY2004.
- EERE plans to transition the StateWeatherization and State Energy Programs to Grants.gov beginning in October 2004 for FY2005.
- EERE WAP and SEP program managers are working with the Regional Offices and States to develop transition plans and milestones.
- Decisions to transition other EERE programs have not been made.

(Continued)

Question: Approximately when will States and Stakeholders have to apply for mandatory and discretionary grants on Grants.gov?

- When the funding opportunity announcement indicate applications will be submitted using Grants.v then applicants must apply using Grants.gov.
- October 2004, for EERE program announcements except for the
 GeoPowering The West, which is December 1, 2003 March 15, 2004.
- Use of Grants.gov for other EERE discretionary FOA in FY2004 has not been determined and is subject to change.

(Continued)

Question: Approximately when will States and Stakeholders handle their post-award activities through Grants.gov?

- The Grants.gov post-award activities module has not been developed.
- Development of financial and progress reports standard data elements and deployment of the reports application package are scheduled for Phase II, February 2004 through February 2006.
- Development of the oversight and closeout functions are scheduled for Phase III, February 2006 through September 2007.
- A detailed schedule has not been published by the Grants Program Management Office.

(Continued)

Question: How (and for how long) will <u>WinSAGA</u> be used through this e-gov progression?

- We don't know yet.
- We are identifying and working the issues.
 - Our first big challenge is when I-MANAGE STARS replaces DISCAS and MARS in October 2004. I-MANAGE is not funding an interface between WinSAGA and STARS. (State drawdown issue.)
 - How will the EERE Corporate Planning System be used with SEP and WAP.
 - How do we get the Grants.gov data thru DOE IIPS and into WinSAGA?
 - How will amendments be handled?

(Continued)

Question: How (and for how long) will DOE IIPS be used through this e-gov progression?

- Applications submitted to Grants.gov will be downloaded into DOE IIPS.
- DOE IIPS will be used as it is currently used for posting FOAs,
 application review, merit review and communication between the DOE
 Procurement Offices and the applicant and grantee.
- DOE IIPs will be used until it is replaced by the I-MANAGE eProcurement system somewhere in FY2006/07.

(Continued)

Question: Do I still need to get a DUNS Number even though I am not currently submitting applications through Grants.gov?

- Yes.
- All applications for new or renewal grants or cooperative agreements received on or after October 1, 2003, including applications or plans submitted under mandatory grant programs, must include the applicant's DUNS Number whether or not the application is being submitted through Grants.gov.
- You must have a DUNS Number to register for Grants.gov.
- If you change information on a basic award (regardless of the year), then
 it must pass all the FY 2004 edits and have all the required data fields
 entered which includes the DUNS Number.

(Continued)

Question: Why do I need to provide my home address and phone number when registering with the Credential Provider?

Answer:

 This is explained in the ORC Privacy Policy located at http://e-auth.orc.com.

Grants.gov Customer Support

- Weekdays: 7:00 am 9:00 pm, EST.
- Help Desk email & phone support.
 - Email, support@grants.gov.
 - Phone, (800) 518-GRANTS.
- User Guides, Tutorial, FAQs, Quick Reference Guide, Contextual Help.

Web Site and Phone Information

- Animated Overview of Grants.gov, Fact Sheets, Mission, & Goals: http://www.grants.gov/WhatIs
- Business Partner Network (BPN): www.bpn.gov
- CCR: www.ccr.gov, 1-888-227-2423 (24 hours, 7 days a week).
- Credential Provider (ORC): www.grants.gov, 1-800-386-6820 (7:30 am to 6:00 pm EST) or eauthhelp@orc.com
- DUNS Number: www.dnb.com or 1-866-705-5711.
- DOE IIPS: http://e-center.doe.gov, 1-800-683-0751. (Monday Friday 8:00 am to 8:00 pm EST) or helpdesk@pr.doe.gov
- Grants.gov: http://www.grants.gov
- Grants.gov Program Management Office: http://www.grants.gov/ProgramManage
- IAEGC eGrants Program Management Office: www.iaegc.gov/Links/iaegc_epmo.htm

Web Site and Phone Information

(Continued)

- Office of Management and Budget Grant Policies: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/grants_docs.html
- PureEdge Viewer 6.0: grants.gov/PEViewer/ICSViewer600_grants.exe
- Search for Federal Funding Opportunities: http://www.grants.gov/FindGrantOpportunities or http://fedgrants.gov/grants/servlet/SearchServlet/
- Register to Receive Grant Opportunity Notification Service: http://www.grants.gov/ReceiveGrantOpportunityNotification or http://fedgrants.gov/ApplicantRegistration.html
- System Requirements:
 - Grants.gov: http://www.grants.gov/DownloadViewer
 - DOE IIPS: http://e-center.doe.gov

Questions